



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SMS-01 RP-10 SR-04
AID-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 SY-05 SYE-00 /129
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C 231310Z JUL 80
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7885
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY Dacca
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCEUR VAIHENGEN GE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by John Kelly DATE 8/14/89
() RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() EXCISE () DECLASSIFY in PART
() DENY () Non-responsive info.
FOI, EO or PA exemptions _____

TS authority to:
() CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
() DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

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KARACHI ALSO FOR RSS; CINCEUR AND CINCPAC ALSO FOR PC, ADS

E.O. 12065: GDS 7/22/86 (GRIFFIN, GEORGE J. S.) CR-4
TAGS: ASEC PDIP PEPR PINS PINT AF
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

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1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

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2. SUMMARY: TENSIONS ROSE MARKEDLY IN KABUL THIS WEEK AS SOVIET AND AFGHAN ARMOR ONCE AGAIN MOVED INTO THE STREETS AND RUMORS OF COUP PLOTS AND RESISTANCE ATTACKS CIRCULATED WILDLY. A DEPUTY MINISTER WAS ASSASSINATED ON JULY 20 AND BURIED THE SAME DAY. KARMAL'S SPEECH CRITICIZING GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND SUBSEQUENT ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SHIFTS IN PARTS OF THE BUREAUCRACY PRODUCED A SPATE OF CONJECTURES THAT THE PARCHAMISTS WERE MOVING AGAINST KHALQIS IN THE REGIME, PERHAPS WITH SOVIET AID. LOWER LEVEL ASSASSINATIONS HAVE ALSO CONTINUED AND THE AREA AROUND THE SEVENTH ARMORED DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AT RISHKOR HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF HEAVY FIRING FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND NIGHTS. AS USUAL, THE RUMOR MILL IS OUTPACING CREDULITY, BUT THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF AFGHAN ARMOR AT MANY SENSITIVE LOCATIONS IN KABUL LENDS CREDENCE TO EXPECTATIONS OF FURTHER TROUBLE. END SUMMARY.

3. ON JULY 18, AFGHAN BMP ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS MOVED INTO SENSITIVE LOCATIONS (BRIDGES, MAJOR INTERSECTIONS, IMPORTANT DRA OFFICES) THROUGHOUT KABUL. SOVIET ARMOR PATROLLED THE STREETS FOR MUCH OF THE DAY. (AT NIGHT, SOVIET ARMOR IS MOVING INTO SUCH LOCATIONS, AS IT HAS BEEN FOR MONTHS.) AS OF JULY 23, MOST OF THE AFGHAN ARMOR HAS REMAINED IN PLACE.

4. THESE MILITARY MOVES COUPLED WITH SEVERAL KARMAL PROOUNCEMENTS (SEE BELOW) HAVE SPURRED A FRESH SPATE OF RUMORS OF BLOCKED COUP PLOTS, INTERNECINE POPA WARNING AND FRESH ATTACKS BY RESISTANCE FORCES. THE RUMORS REACHED A FEVER PITCH WHEN DEPUTY MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, DR. MOHAMMAD WALI YUSUFI, WAS GUNNED DOWN IN KABUL ON JULY 20. (YUSUFI, A HOLOOVER FROM THE AMIN REGIME AND CONCURRENTLY DEAN OF LAW AND POLITICAL

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SCIENCE AT KABUL UNIVERSITY, WAS NOMINALLY A KHALQI, BUT IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CLOSER TO KARMAL'S PARCHAMISTS IN RECENT MONTHS. ONE OF OUR CONTACTS ALLEGED THAT YUSUFI WAS ALWAYS A PARCHAMIST AND THAT HE SPIED ON THE KHALQIS DURING THE AMIN PERIOD (OTHER SOURCES INSIST THAT IS NOT SO. THERE IS ALMOST NO AGREEMENT ON THE IDENTITY OF HIS ASSASSINS.)

5. RUMORS CONTINUE TO ABOUND THAT INTERIOR MINISTER ULABZOI AND TRANSPORTATION MINISTER NAZCOORAB HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR COUP PLOTTING. FROM TIME TO TIME, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER WATANJAN AND POPA POLITICAL HEADQUARTERS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED

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IN SUCH RUMORS. HOWEVER, ALL OF THOSE PERSONS EXCEPT MAZDOORYAR APPEARED AT THE POLISH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION ON JULY 22, ALONG WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KESHTMAND, DEFENSE MINISTER RAFIE, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER GUL AGA, POPA CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER MANGAL AND SEVERAL OTHER LESSER LUMINARIES. (FOR THE RECORD, WATANJAR LOOKED TIRED AND WAN AND PANJSHIRI SEEMED TO BE SUFFERING FROM SCIATICA. THE OTHERS APPEARED TO BE IN PERFECT HEALTH.)

6. PROUNCEMENTS BY BABRAK KARMAL ON JULY 12 AND 20 IN WHICH HE CHASTISED CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE BUREAUCRACY FOR "INEFFICIENCY" AND ORDERED THE SHIFT TO THE PRIME MINISTRY OF CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF OTHER MINISTRIES AND THE CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS SET OFF ANOTHER FLURRY OF SPECULATION THAT HIS REAL TARGETS WERE KHALQI MINISTERS. SOME DIPLOMATS FUELED THE RUMOR MILL BY PASSING ALONG STORIES THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SARHARI (CURRENTLY IN THE USSR "FOR MEDICAL ATTENTION") WAS TO BE MADE AMBASSADOR TO MONGOLIA OR YUGOSLAVIA AND THAT OTHER KHALQIS WERE TO BE SENT TO EAST EUROPEAN POSTS IN THE SAME FASHION AS THE PARCHAMISTS WERE SENT ABROAD DURING TARAKI'S REGIME.

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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7. ALL OF THIS SPECULATION SEEMS TO BE OVERDRAHN. IF NOT MADE OF WHOLE CLOTH, AT LEAST AT THIS POINT, NO MINISTERIAL CHANGES HAVE YET BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE DRA. UNITED NATIONS ADVISORS (INCLUDING SOME AMERICANS) HAVE BEEN ADVOCATING ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS FOR YEARS, AND AT LEAST ONE WELL-PLACED SOURCE HAS ASSURED US THAT THE CURRENT SOVIET ADVISORS HAVE URGED THE SAME SORT OF CHANGES. THE DRA ONLY RECENTLY ESTABLISHED RELATIONS
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WITH ULAN BATOR, AND WHILE A MONGOLIAN EMBASSY HAS APPEARED IN KABUL, NO PARALLEL AFGHAN MISSION EXISTS THERE. SENDING

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SARWARI TO ULAN BATOR WOULD BE THE AFGHAN EQUIVALENT OF SIBERIA, AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT IT. IN ANY CASE, LESS FEVERISH DIPLOMATIC INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NOKAMEL AND MFA PROTOCOL CHIEF ABEOL, BOTH PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS, WILL BE GOING TO YUGOSLAVIA AND TURKEY, RESPECTIVELY. (THE TURKS DO NOT SEEM TO HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE LATTER, WHICH IF TRUE WOULD REPRESENT AN EFFORT TO SPLIT THE TURKS FROM THEIR NATO ALLIES, SINCE GRANTING AGREEMENT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS RECOGNITION OF THE KARMAL REGIME.)

8. THAT SAID, AN IMPORTANT MEETING IS TAKING PLACE AT THE PRIME MINISTER (AND PERHAPS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY). TROOPS HAVE BLOCKED OFF ALL APPROACH ROADS AND RUMORS CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE THAT BIG CHANGES ARE IMMINENT. KABUL RADIO ANNOUNCED ON JULY 22 THAT A SPECIAL REVOLUTIONARY COURT HAD SENTENCED TWO UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS TO DEATH, AND HINTED THAT OTHERS ACCUSED OF FOMENTING TROUBLE IN RECENT MONTHS WOULD RECEIVE LESSER SENTENCES. THE RADIO ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT ALL KABUL SCHOOLS WOULD BE CLOSED "DUE TO RAMAZAN AND THE WEATHER" UNTIL AUGUST 10. SUCH ACTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO FEED THE RUMOR MILLS UNTIL THE DRA DECIDES TO REVEAL ITS HAND.

9. THE FOREIGN COMMUNITY CONTINUED TO DWINDLE. THE POLISH AMBASSADOR TOLD HIS GUESTS THAT HIS WIFE WOULD LEAVE FOR THE SUMMER TODAY, AND ALLOWED THAT HE HOPED TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO FOLLOW HER SHORTLY. HIS DEPARTURE WOULD LEAVE KABUL WITHOUT EAST EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS EXCEPT FOR THE BULGARIAN (WHO IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART PERMANENTLY IN AUGUST) AND THE YUGOSLAV, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM LEAVE. (THE TOP THREE SOVIET DIPLOMATS CLAIM THAT THEY HAVE NO PLANS TO BE AWAY DURING THE SUMMER.) WITH SEVERAL MORE AMERICANS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE BEFORE THE
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END OF THE WEEK, OUR COMMUNITY SHOULD BE DOWN TO LESS THAN 40 BY THE END OF THE MONTH. THE MFA HAS STILL NOT APPROVED VISAS FOR SEVEN USG PERSONNEL SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE FOR DUTY THIS MONTH. OUR REPEATED REQUESTS FOR EXPLANATIONS ARE MET WITH SILENCE. GRIFFIN

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